The Government has taken various steps to take care of environmental problems in the Himalayas. The hill States of Jammu and kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura. Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram have been categorised as "Special Category States" and are entitled to Central assistance on a liberal basis with 90% as grant and 10% as loan for various schemes including for regeneration and development of the hill environment. Other States in the Himalayan region are entitled for assistance under the Hill Areas Development Programme. G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has been set up to carry out indepth studies of problems of Himalayas and to develop suitable technology packages for Himalayan Region. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is involved with study of Geology of the region. A Steering Committee has also been set up in the Planning Commission to take a holistic view of the problems of the Himalayas.

(c) The threat to Himalayas cannot be visualized on a time-scale.

Directorate for Prevention of Crimes against Wildlife

1698. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to establish a Directorate of Prevention of Crimes Against Wildlife in the country;

(b) if so, whether the crimes against wildlife in the country have increased manifold and non-Governmental organisations are pressing Government to take an effective step in this regard;

(c) if so, whether Subramaniam Committee had also recommended in 1994 to set up a Directorate to check crime against wildlife; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not accepting to the recommendations of Subramaniam Committee at that time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reports of wildlife related crimes from inside and outside the protected areas come to the notice of this Ministry. Effective strategies are adopted for preventing such crimes with the support of renowned NGO's with proven track record.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A proposal is under consideration in the Ministry for setting up of a special mechanism for wildlife trade prevention and control to deal with the poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its product.

Pollution in rivers

1699. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of pollution of Indian rivers, especially the Ganga and the Yamuna;

(b) what are the details of the Ganga Action Plan which was launched in 1985; and

(c) what is the progress and whether it has achieved the purpose for which this Plan was launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Biochemical Oxygen Demand levels, an indicator of organic pollution in the river, are high for major rivers of India as against the bathing quality criteria of 3 miligram per litre. For river Ganga, the Biochemical Oxygen Demand shows levels higher than bathing quality in the stretch from Kannauj to Varanasi. For Yamuna these levels are violated in the stretch from Delhi (Nizamuddin Bridge) to Etawah.

(b) and (c) 261 schemes of pollution abatement of various categories such as interception, diversion and treatment of municipal waste water, installation of crematoria, river front development works and low cost sanitation etc. were sanctioned under Ganga Action Plan phase I at a cost of Rs. 462.04 crores in 25 class I towns in the three States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. 258 schemes have since been completed which include 32 sewage treatment plants. The total expenditure incurred so far is Rs. 451.70 crore under this programme. With this, out of the 873 million litres per day of domestic waste water targetted for interception, diversion and treatment, a capacity to treat 835 million litres per day of waste water has been created.

Ganga Action Plan Phase II was approved in stages by the Government of India between April, 1993 to October, 1996. About 1861 million litres per day of domestic waste water is targeted for interception, diversion and treatment under this phase. The total sanctioned cost is Rs. 1276.26 crore and this includes the implementation of various categories of schemes as mentioned above in 95